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Visit of Minister of State of Foreign Affairs Vasantha Senanayake to India 02-04 October 2017

The State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vasantha Senanayaka visited New Delhi from 02- 04 October 2017.



During the visit, the Minister visited the Sri Lanka Buddhist Pilgrims Rest in New Delhi and inspected the facilities provided to the Buddhist pilgrims. He had a discussion with Ven. Moramalpokune Dhammalankara Thero, Administration Secretary and the Officials of the Sri Lankan High Commission on issues pertaining to the maintenance and facilities at the Pilgrims Rest and ways of improving the facilities for the benefit of the pilgrims.

The Minister also visited the Mahabodhi Center of New Delhi and paid homage to sacred Kapilawasthu Relics at the National Museum.

During the visit the Minister had meetings with Heads of Missions of Spain, Israel, Brunei and CdA of Luxemburg and discussed issues on further strengthening bilateral relations with the respective countries.

The Ministerial meeting and the Third Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Fisheries held in New Delhi on 13 – 14 October 2017.

The Joint Working Group, Officials meeting was Co-Chaired by Secretary (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries), Government of India and Secretary

(Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development), Government of Sri Lanka.



The JWG meeting took place on 13 October followed by the Ministerial meeting on 14 October. The Ministerial meeting was co- Chaired by Mahinda Amaraweera , Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic resources Development , Sri Lanka and Mr. Radha Mohan Singh, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

The co-Chairs of the JWG briefed the outcome of the issues discussed during the 3rd JWG meeting for consideration of the Ministers and for further directions. The Ministers reviewed the progress made over the last one year and agreed that a permanent solution to the fishermen’s issues should be found at the earliest.

Courtesy calls on Indian dignitaries.

The High Commissioner Chitranganee Wagiswara had a meeting with Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from Andra Pradesh at his residence in New Delhi. He held different portfolios as Minister of State, Commerce and Industry, Power and Drinking Water and Sanitation. He is a senior leader of National Congress.

During the meeting the High Commissioner spoke on the current developments in Sri Lanka and briefed the member on the reconciliation mechanisms and the

proposed constitutional reforms of GOSL. Mr. Ramesh emphasized the importance of maintaining closer ties with India as a development partner.



Katina Cheevara Pooja Ceremony at Mahabodhi Center of New Delhi on 08th October 2017.

The High Commission was associated with the Maha Bodhi Temple in New Delhi in organizing the Annual Katina Ceremony on 07-08 October 2017.

The Katina Cheevara was brought to the High Commission and religious rituals were followed in the evening on 07 October with the participation of the Mission staff. Ven. Sumiththananda thero, Chief Incumbent of the Maha Bodhi Center in New Delhi along with Ven. Hemalokha Thero and other Bhikkhus who observed Vas in the Mahabodhi Center conducted the concluding ceremony on 08th October at the Mahabodhi Temple in New Delhi.

Monks including visiting monks from Sri Lanka who observed vas and Ven. Seevali Thero the General Secretary of Mahabodhi Society of India were present at the event.

Regional Consumer Protection Conference on “Empowering Consumers in new markets” held in New Delhi.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs of India in association with UNCTAD organized the first Regional Consumer Protection Conference for the South, South East and East Asian countries on “Empowering consumers in new markets” from 26-27th October in New Delhi.

The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Conference which was attended by delegates from 19 countries including Sri Lanka, Senior dignitaries from the Central

Government, State Governments from India, senior officials of the Consumer Commissions as well as representatives from the private sector, consumer associations and academia were present at the event.

The Conference was chaired by HE Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

High Commission officials attended the conference together with Ms Indika Ranatunga, Director, National Policies and Mrs Chandrika Thilakarathne, Director Consumer Affairs of the Ministry of Industry & Commerce.

Business and Luxury Travel Mart (BLTM), Hyatt Regency Gurgaon, New Delhi

For the first time, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau together with ten travel and tour companies took part at the Business and Luxury Travel Mart (BLTM), India’s definitive trade show on Business, MICE and Luxury Travel, held from 26-27th October at the hotel Hyatt Regency in New Delhi.

While setting a new milestone for MICE focused travel trade show in India, BLTM provided the one-stop opportunity to meet hundreds of sellers from the Business, MICE and Luxury Travel segments, from around the world in a five star setting.

Sri Lanka Convention Bureau which functions under the Ministry of Tourism Development with the primary objective of promoting Sri Lanka as a venue for International and Regional Meetings, Incentive Travel, Congress and Exhibitions destination, jointly with Vivantha by Taj Sri Lanka, Serendib Leisure Management Ltd, Asian Adventures Travel Management, Royal Holidays, Walkers Tours Ltd, Green Holiday Center Pvt Ltd, Jetwing Travels, Abercrombi & Kent Pvt Ltd, Delair Travels (Pvt) Ltd and Sri Lankan Airlines projected Sri Lanka as a MICE destination at the BLTM held in New Delhi.

Interaction with Officials of the Chandigarh University

Officials of the University of Chandigarh considered as the number one private university in India, visited the High Commission to inform about the upcoming

Promotion Campaign planned for Sri Lanka from 13th November to 18th November 2017.

The University works closely with the Lyceum International School in Colombo and this year a promotion programme will be held at the Ladies College, Colombo. They expect to reach out to the Education Secretaries of the Provincial Councils to promote more Sri Lankan students to study at the Chandigarh University which would help build more and more people to people contacts.

Diverse blend of cultures at the 4th International Folk Dance Festival in New Delhi



The Sri Lankan Dance team headed by Prof. Mudiyanse Dissianayake from the University of Visual and Performing Arts from Sri Lanka, performed at the 4th International Folk Dance and Music Festival on 10th October at the Kamani Auditorium. The event was organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Bangladesh, Russia, Egypt, Spain and Cambodia also participated at the event.

During the tour to India, the Sri Lankan team participated at the Dusshera festival in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh and in Chandigarh.

Sri Lanka Dance Performance at the IIT Delhi Annual show



The Central Province National Dance Troupe made a spectacular performance at the Annual Rendezvous at the India Institute of Technology in New Delhi. The performance was held on 14th and 15th October at the Dogra Hall, BRC, IIT Delhi. Performances included Ves, Mask dancing, "Gini Sisila" the fire dance and many more.

A Sri Lankan dance troupe dazzles the 14th Udbhav Utsav

The Anjana Rajapakse dance troupe from Sri Lanka participated at the above event with a 16 member dance team portraying Sri Lankan traditional dances. The event was held from 12-16 October 2017 in the Indian town Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh. The group from Sri Lanka won the grand award at the festival. More than 540 artists from Slovakia, Bulgaria, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, South Korea, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka participated at the Festival.

Five Sri Lankan Craftsmen received awards for excellence at the International Crafts Award 2017 in New Delhi.

The award ceremony was held on 14th October at the Craft Village, Westend Greens, Rangpuri, New Delhi. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Cabinet Minister for Women & Child Development, Govt. of India handed over the awards.

At the event, the following five craftsmen from Sri Lanka received awards and it was noted that Sri Lanka bagged the highest number of awards at the ceremony.

- I. Mr. ID Rathnasiri - Craftsman of the Year 2017
- II. Mr. MG Adheesha Chathuranga - Craftsman of the Year 2017
- III. Mr. WAC Kumara Wijesinghe - Craftsman of the Year 2017
- IV. Mr. HG Nimal Karunathilake, Craftsman of the Year 2017
- V. Mr. HM Gunaratne - Master Artisan (Male) of the Year 2017

The awards have been instituted to recognize Craftsman, Artisans, Designers, and Individuals/ Organisations from across the world for their outstanding contribution in sustainable & inclusive development on the Craft Sector.

More than 30-countries were shortlisted, and the final participants and winners were from Nepal, Egypt, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Serbia, South Africa, Hong Kong and from many Indian State Governments.

A lecture on Kalinga- Lanka relations held at Bhubaneswar.

A lecture on "The Kalinga-Lanka Ties - Past, Present and future" was held on 16th October 2017 at the Pantha Nivas at Bhubaneswar. The lecture was delivered by Shri Utpal Pati, Deputy Director of Tourism.

Dr. R. Balakrishnan, Development Commissioner was the Chief Guest. Dr. Mona Sharma, Principal Secretary, Tourism presided at the event.

India to Host Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017 – World’s Largest Conference on Cyber Space

India will be hosting the 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) in 2017, one of the world’s largest conferences on Cyber Space and related issues. The GCCS is taking place outside OECD nations for the first time. This year’s theme for the GCCS 2017 is ‘Cyber4All: An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace’. This Conference which will take place from 23rd & 24th of November 2017 in New Delhi, will be inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

Cyber security will be one of the major areas focused at the GCCS 2017 especially at a time when the Indian Government is in the process of setting up separate sector specific emergency response centres to ensure cyber security and strengthen technology infrastructure. The conference will be an ideal forum for the exchange of ideas with global think tanks and promote closer co-operation among the international community.

Connecting the Bay of Bengal: India, Japan, and Regional Cooperation

The Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Sumith Nakandala and Former Commander of the Navy Admiral Jayanath Colombage participated at the above event held on 26th October 2017 organized by the Carnegie India.

The seminar focused on connecting the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, with the Bay of Bengal re-emerging as a critical geostrategic sub region.

Carnegie India, in partnership with the India Development Foundation, hosted this seminar with a view to review Indo-Japanese economic and security cooperation in the region, and to identify new possibilities for developing regional connectivity corridors and strengthening maritime security in the Bay of Bengal.

Sri Lanka participated at the CyFy 2017

The CyFy: The India Conference on Technology, Security and Society was held on 3rd and 4th October 2017. This year, it was visible that the conference received an overwhelming response with participation from many countries and organizations around the world. The conference was organised by the Observer Research Foundation which is an independent think tank based in India which provides a platform for discussion for non-partisan research, policymakers, journalists, civil society actors and academicians. A delegate from the Ministry of Information technology and Digital Infrastructure participated at the event.

Tea Promotional Event



At the T-club meeting held at the residence of the Hungarian Embassy the Minister Commercial Upekkha Samaratinga conducted a promotion of Ceylon Tea. The promotion included a demonstration of the various teas grown in Sri Lanka and the participants had the opportunity of tasting the different flavors of low, mid and high grown teas.